

**Infantile Paralysis Research Grant Made to University of California.**—An investigation of the exact relationship between human infantile paralysis and a disease of farm stock known as equine encephalomyelitis is to be undertaken at the Hooper Foundation for Medical Research on the San Francisco campus of the University of California. In making this announcement, President Robert G. Sproul made it known that the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis, Inc., has donated \$13,800 for the work, about one-fifth of the funds it has available for this year.

**Microfilm Sets of Periodicals.**—The Committee on Scientific Aids to Learning, President Conant of Harvard, chairman, has made a grant to cover the cost of making a microfilm master negative, on the most expensive film, of sets of volumes of scientific and learned journals.

This permits the nonprofit Bibliofilm Service to supply microfilm copies at the sole positive copy cost, namely, one cent per page for odd volumes, or a special rate of one-half cent per page for any properly copyable ten or more consecutive volumes.

The number of pages will be estimated on request to Bibliofilm Service, care of United States Department of Agriculture Library, Washington, D. C.

**New York University: Course in Syphilis.**—The next session of the Postgraduate Course in Syphilis at New York University College of Medicine will start on January 29 and will continue for eight weeks on a full-time basis. As the work will be given under grants from the United States Public Health Service and the New York State Department of Health, no tuition fee is to be charged.

The course will include didactic and clinical work in the pathology, diagnosis, and treatment of syphilis, prenatal and congenital syphilis, laboratory procedures, and control measures. The public-health aspects of the disease will also be presented, and there will be opportunity for field work.

Graduates of recognized medical schools are eligible for admission on approval by the committee in charge. Further details may be obtained from the office of the assistant dean, 477 First Avenue, New York, N. Y.

**Trudeau School of Tuberculosis.**—The Trudeau School of Tuberculosis, which for twenty-five years has been held usually in May and June of each year, will present its 1940 session beginning on September 9 and closing on October 4 at Saranac Lake, with the supplementary (and optional) course at Bellevue Hospital, New York City, October 7 to 19.

The change has been made, with regret, to avoid conflict with the important annual meetings of the National Tuberculosis Association, American Association for Thoracic Surgery and American Medical Association, all of which will be held in June when the Trudeau School course would normally be presented. It will permit prospective students, as well as members of the faculty of the School at Saranac Lake and in New York, to attend the medical meetings without interference by the work of the Trudeau School.

Enrollments for the September-October session are now being received. Application should be made to Roy Dayton, Secretary, Saranac Lake, New York.

**Press Clippings.**—Some news items from the daily press on matters related to medical practice follow:

#### Birthday Gift\*

The President is going to reverse the usual order this year and send Congress a gift on his birthday, January 30.

It will consist of a special message urging a \$10,000,000 appropriation for the construction of twenty-five hospitals in various parts of the country to be designated by the Public Health Service and the American Medical Association. He went out of his way to choose his birthday to submit this plan, and will describe it as the first step in an ultimate nation-wide health insurance program.

The President also will emphasize in his message that while the Federal Government should take the initiative in building the hospitals, the localities must maintain them.

Surgeon General Thomas Parran tried to persuade him to recommend a certain amount of Federal aid for upkeep. Parran proposed \$1 per day per patient. But Roosevelt rejected this.

"Nope, that's out," he told the Interdepartmental Health Program Committee headed by Miss Josephine Roche. "It's all right for the Government to build them, but the localities must operate them. We want to tie the localities directly up to these hospitals so that they will have a personal interest in them."

*Note:* Significantly, at the conclusion of the conference the President directed Miss Roche to continue work on formulating a national health insurance program, even though there is no chance of passing anything of this nature at the present session of Congress.—*San Francisco Chronicle*, January 26, 1940.

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#### Forced Sickness Insurance Opposed by Mrs. Roosevelt

Washington, January 9.—Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt, who has frequently called attention to the health needs of the underprivileged, said yesterday she is opposed to compulsory sickness insurance.

Any medical program enacted by Congress should be tried out on a voluntary basis before the American people are asked to approve it, the President's wife declared. She said she was generally opposed to anything "compulsory," requiring any group to do something of which it does not approve. . . .

There are no funds earmarked in the new 1941 Federal budget for either the Wagner program or the President's more modest proposal for Federal construction of medical centers in counties where hospital facilities are now lacking. Mr. Roosevelt, however, has explained that money for his program could be found in the general public work fund. . . .

The President's wife told reporters she hoped very much that no program would be adopted by Congress until it has broad professional backing and does not represent only one group.

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#### Birth Control Survey†

*Seventy-Seven Per Cent Approve, Institute Says*

Princeton, N. J., January 25.—With the adoption by South Carolina of a plan for birth-control education as a regular part of its public health service, the American Institute of Public Opinion has conducted a survey to test public sentiment on extending this plan elsewhere.

Although birth-control clinics sponsored by private organizations have been operating in many states, South Carolina is the second state to furnish birth-control information in its public health clinics, and a formal announcement was made this week at the annual meeting in New York of the Birth Control Federation. The birth-control education plan was first adopted by North Carolina health clinics two years ago.

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#### State Pensions

Sacramento, January 31 (UP).—A total of 133,949 aged persons, 39,560 needy children, and 6,846 blind persons received Social Security payments amounting to \$5,460,399 during December, Director of Social Welfare Martha A. Chickering reported today.

In San Francisco County 10,185 aged, 3,345 children, and 517 blind received a total of \$439,539.

For the state as a whole, old-age pension payments averaged \$32.97; allotments to children, \$18.05; and to the blind, \$48.17. The state, counties, and Federal Government cooperate in the Social Security payments.

\* By Drew Pearson and Robert S. Allen.

† By George Gallup, Director, American Institute of Public Opinion.

The institute put before its voters this issue:  
 "Would you approve or disapprove of having Government health clinics furnish birth-control information to married people who want it?"

The vote of those with opinions was:

Approve .....	77%
Disapprove .....	23%

Eleven per cent expressed no opinion.

*The institute has on this issue, as on many other questions of social importance, attempted to measure trends of sentiment in recent years. Taking no sides on any issue, its function is solely to report the facts about public opinion.*

The study found a higher favorable vote among young persons than among those in the older age groups. Thus, 65 per cent in the age bracket 50 years and over voted approval of furnishing birth-control information in public health clinics, as compared to a vote of 85 per cent among persons under 30 years of age.

No great difference of attitude was found by economic groups. Both the upper income level at one extreme, and persons on relief at the other extreme voted approximately 8-2 in favor of birth-control service through the health clinics.

Voters who expressed their disapproval cited three main reasons: (1) That birth control is a private matter and should not be the concern of the Government, (2) that the practice or spread of birth control is contrary to religious principle, and (3) that it will lead to "race suicide." One voter's comment, typical of many, was: "Those who need it most wouldn't use it, and others shouldn't."—San Francisco News, January 25, 1940.

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#### United States Grants to Hospitals Roosevelt Studies Health Plan

Washington, D. C., Dec. 22.—President Roosevelt, declaring that the Wagner health bill and the Harrison education bill were too costly and discriminated against poor states, said today he was considering a less expensive plan for outright Federal grants to needy communities for hospital construction.

The Chief Executive told a press conference he was studying the idea with public health officials and members of the American Medical Association with a view to asking Congress that it be tried out first in localities now in need of medical centers and without funds to build them.

#### From WPA Fund

The cost, he said, would be comparatively low and most of the money would come out of the WPA appropriation. The chief trouble with the Wagner and Harrison measures, he added, was that they required State matching of Federal grants, which would mean that only the wealthier states would benefit.

The bill of Senator Wagner (Democrat-New York) authorizes an appropriation of \$80,000,000 the first year, and gradual increases in succeeding years, for grants to states for hospitals and general health programs. That of Senator Harrison (Democrat-Mississippi) provides an outlay of \$540,000,000 over five years for building of schools.

President Roosevelt said his hospital plan was not a substitute for the Wagner proposal, but was simply an initial step that could be put through the coming session without waiting for a general plan for the nation.

#### Big States Out

He indicated that if it worked it might be carried out with respect to schools in poorer sections, but that states like New York and Illinois could not expect any Government handouts for such purpose.

The discussion followed a question whether the President's interdepartmental committee on health and welfare had been revived and whether Josephine Roche, of Colorado, had reassumed its chairmanship. The President said Miss Roche had wanted to resign, but that he had prevailed upon her to stay. He said he had asked the group, whose recommendations formed the basis for the Wagner bill, to continue its present studies and also to look into the hospital construction plan.

#### Log-Rolling Bait

The hospital grants, he said, would be allocated on condition that benefiting communities were financially able to maintain the buildings and were in a position to administer them efficiently.

Public health officials and a group of private doctors would pick the locations to prevent log-rolling by members of Congress to have the institutions built where they were not needed. When a reporter commented that the plan was a "natural for log-rolling," the President observed that Congress would have the right to do its own selecting but he added that the other method would be more practical.

The PWA, now being liquidated, would supervise the program and WPA labor would be utilized as far as possible.

The President said some doctors had informed him of the need of hospitals in certain communities in the Middle and far West and and the South and had told him that they could be provided for about \$150,000 each.—San Francisco Examiner, December 23, 1939.

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#### San Francisco Hospitals

##### Strike Voted by Membership

A strike against eleven leading San Francisco hospitals was authorized last night by the membership of the Hospital and Institutional Workers, Local 250. The vote was 224 to 31.

Any immediate closing of the hospitals was not threatened, however, inasmuch as the strike must first be sanctioned by the San Francisco Labor Council.

Arthur Hare, president of the hospital workers, said he would place the matter on the floor of the council Friday night. He said the union would seek an immediate meeting with the Hospital Conference, representing the management of the hospitals.

Wages constitute the principal demand: A \$7.50 universal monthly increase is sought. The present scale is \$90 monthly for male employees and \$85 for women.

Hospitals involved are Franklin, French, St. Luke's, St. Joseph's, St. Mary's, Mary's Help, St. Francis, Children's, Mt. Zion, Dante and Stanford.—San Francisco Chronicle, January 9, 1940.

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#### San Mateo Will Study Hospital

Investigation of the tuberculosis pavilion at San Mateo County's Community Hospital, with a view to possible construction of a new county hospital, was begun today by Dr. E. A. O'Neill, chairman of the County Board of Health and Welfare.

County Executive Frederick Peterson suggested the investigation after a personal study of the hospital and following a report of the United States Public Health Service which criticized location of the present tuberculosis pavilion and recommended it be abandoned.

The hospital, the health service report said, lacks a case finding program, houses many advanced patients with others less advanced and has difficulty getting properly warmed food to patients because of the pavilion's distance from hospital kitchens.—San Francisco News, January 4, 1940.

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#### Million-Dollar Gift Offered

##### Samarkand Hotel Due to Become Haven for Paralysis Sufferers

Santa Barbara, Jan. 9.—Mrs. Alma De Bretteville Spreckels Awl has offered as an outright gift to the National Infantile Paralysis Association her \$1,000,000 Samarkand Hotel property on the outskirts of Santa Barbara. It is proposed to establish there such an institution as has brought cure and comfort to hundreds of afflicted youths at Warm Springs, Georgia. . . .

#### Formal Proffer

Formal proffer of the gift, it was disclosed today, will be made by Mrs. Awl at a luncheon in San Francisco which will be attended by members of the board of the national association. Santa Barbara will be represented by Dr. Walter Scott Franklin, former United States Senator Thomas M. Storke, Mayor Patrick J. Maher and Elmer Awl.

Tonight at Doctor Franklin's Walora Rancho in the Goleta hills members of the regional branch of the national association are meeting to discuss local coöperation in the transformation of the hotel property into a sanitarium. It is pointed out that the establishment of a western sanitarium for infantile paralysis patients will have stimulating effect on the forthcoming "March of Dimes" campaign and on the benefit balls which will be held in the West.

#### \$200,000 Expended

Mrs. Awl long has been interested in child welfare and health. When she found the continued operation of Samarkand as a hotel called for too much of her individual attention, she looked about for a humanitarian use for the property on which she had expended \$200,000 for improvements in recent years to raise its value over the \$1,000,000 mark. . . .—Los Angeles Times, January 10, 1940.

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#### Doctor Askey to Head Board of Education

Reports circulated through the Board of Education headquarters today that Dr. E. Vincent Askey, physician mem-

ber of the board, will be elected to succeed Clarence W. Pierce as president of the body.

Doctor Askey is expected to serve his last year of his four-year term, ending in 1941, as president. He at one time was secretary-treasurer of the Los Angeles County Medical Association.

Currently chairman of the board's committee of the whole, Doctor Askey has gone on record strongly in favor of a present board regulation making it mandatory for every teacher who has been absent for more than ten days to show a certificate from the school health division before resuming class work.

Instructors have vigorously protested the ruling, claiming that a health certificate from a private physician is sufficient for reinstatement.

A special hearing on the subject will be held next Monday night.—Los Angeles *Herald and Express*, January 5, 1940.

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#### Rap Nurse Shortage in Probe

##### Board to Act on General Hospital Jury Quiz

The Grand Jury recommendations for improvement of conditions at the Los Angeles County General Hospital will be taken up again tomorrow by the Board of Supervisors.

This was determined today at a conference in the office of Supervisor Gordon L. McDonough. The conference was attended by representatives of the Grand Jury, Wayne Allen, county manager; Rex Thomson, superintendent of charities; Mrs. Nellie M. Porter, secretary of the California State Nurses' Association; Doctors Paul S. McKibben, Percy Magan, of the hospital advisory board, and Walter A. Bailey, chief of the hospital attending staff. The report was temporarily shelved by the supervisors last week. At today's meeting Mrs. Carrie Bryant, chairman of the Grand Jury hospital subcommittee, charged that the nursing situation was very bad and the nursing staff entirely inadequate.

##### Lack of Nurses

"There are not enough nurses and something should be done to remedy conditions," she said.

She recommended, according to the Grand Jury report, the establishment of a board of regents by a charter amendment to govern the hospital.

Mrs. Porter pointed out that conditions had been allowed to "linger along" for the past two years and that no action should be immediately taken to set up a board of regents. She suggested that an administrative director of the hospital be appointed.

##### Questions Legality

Supervisor John Anson Ford questioned the legality of the Grand Jury report and declared that a board of regents is not the answer.

"What the hospital needs is a competent administrator," he said.

Doctor Bailey said the institution requires many more nurses than it has at the present time.

It is expected that the hospital advisory committee will consult with Rex Thomson and Wayne Allen before submitting recommendations.

##### Five-Point Plan

The Grand Jury recommended adoption of a five-point program, including an improved social service department, better nursing facilities and more nurses, improved billing and collection service and creation of a board of regents.

Supervisor Gordon L. McDonough said he will ask the Board of Supervisors to place in effect immediately at the county's general hospital recommendations made by the Grand Jury for adjustments in administration.

The supervisor said he will ask the board to approve the Grand Jury report and instruct Rex Thomson, superintendent of charities, and Wayne Allen, county manager, to make the changes.—Los Angeles *Herald and Express*, December 18, 1939.

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#### Health Service Changes Fees

##### Eight New Rules to Go Into Effect

A new schedule of fees to be charged members of the city employees' Health Service System was in effect today, and eight changes in rules defining the service offered members and dependents will go into effect Monday.

The revised fee schedules provide for reductions up to \$100 for operations. Further adjustments of fees are expected to result from conferences between officials of the system and the San Francisco County Medical Society.

Changes in the service to be provided after Monday include holding the system liable for only five office visits to doctors by any one member during a month, requiring physical examination of all dependents enrolled in the future, increasing the assessment for each minor dependent

from \$1 to \$1.50 a month and barring dependents less than 1 year old from benefits of the system.—San Francisco *News*, December 27, 1939.

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#### Hospitals Lose Patients' Suits for Damages

With two decisions of importance to privately owned institutions throughout California, the State Supreme Court yesterday discarded a long-established rule of law which, under most circumstances, exempted charitable organizations from liability for the negligence of their employees.

The court ruled against both the Providence Hospital of Oakland and the Hospital of the Good Samaritan at Los Angeles, upholding judgments won by persons injured while patients.

In the Providence Hospital case, Mrs. Elizabeth Silva, 74, of 2134 Sixtieth Avenue, Oakland, recovered a \$3,000 judgment for a fractured hip sustained in a fall from bed.

##### Alleged Negligence

She charged that nurses had negligently failed to equip the bed with a sideboard. The hospital claimed exemption as a charitable institution.

In a 16-page opinion written by Justice Douglas L. Edmonds, the court assumed that the hospital is a charitable institution, but ruled that, even as such, it is liable to paying patients whom it injures.

The court found the Providence Hospital "a typical example" of the modern hospital conducted as a business enterprise, despite its charitable purposes and its assumption of heavy charitable burdens.

##### \$2,250 Awarded

In the Los Angeles case, the late Charles E. England recovered a \$2,250 judgment in a suit charging that he was burned through the negligence of a nurse in exposing him to hot water bottles.

Justices Curtis, Houser, Carter and Gibson and Chief Justice Waste concurred with Justice Edmonds in both cases.

Justice John W. Shenk wrote dissenting opinions in both. In the Providence Hospital case, he asserted:

"The conclusions in the majority opinion are contrary to the declared policy of the State and the overwhelming weight of authorities elsewhere."—San Francisco *Chronicle*, December 29, 1939.

## LETTERS

### Subject: Opinions of Attorney-General of California.

1. Opticians' Law.
2. California Registration of Public Service Medical Officers.

STATE OF CALIFORNIA

DEPARTMENT OF

PROFESSIONAL AND VOCATIONAL STANDARDS

BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS

Sacramento, California,

January 8, 1940.

California and Western Medicine

George H. Kress, M. D., Editor

Addressed

Dear Doctor:

Enclosed please find copy of Attorney-General Warren's opinion No. NS2220, dated December 26, 1939, relative to the so-called registered dispensing opticians' law.

We also enclose copy of Attorney-General's opinion No. NS2209, dated December 27, 1939, relative to the obligation of full-time medical officers in the United States Army, Navy, or Public Health Service to pay the annual tax if the holder of a California medical license.

We believe that both of these opinions will be of considerable interest to readers of CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE.

420 State Office Building.

Very truly yours,

C. B. PINKHAM, M. D.,

Secretary Treasurer.